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United States Department of Agriculture,
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SILVICAL LEAFLET 27.

TORREY PINE.

Pinus torreyana Parry.

While Torrey pine is of no commercial value, and owing to its limited occurrence is of no practical importance, it is of interest from the fact that the few remaining trees are remnants of what was in former geological times a fairly widespread species.

RANGE AND OCCURRENCE.

It is found in an area of a few square miles on each side of the Soledad River at its mouth, in San Diego County, Cal., and on the eastern end of Santa Rosa Island off the southern coast of that State. It grows in these limited areas on the sides of ravines leading down to the sea, on spurs of canyons, and on bluffs 500 feet or less in altitude. It reaches larger and better development on the inner sides of hills, sheltered from the sea winds.

Torrey pine has no associates, but always grows in pure clumps or groves.

CLIMATE.

The climate near the mouth of the Soledad and that of Santa Rosa Island are very similar, with a temperature range of from 25° to 95° F., with considerable atmospheric humidity and an average precipitation of 15 inches.

HABIT.

Torrey pine is irregular and broadly branching in form, with an average mature height of from 30 to 40 feet and a diameter of from 1 to 2 feet. The needles are the stoutest of any known pine and grow on strong twigs, so that it is well fitted to resist the sea winds.

SOIL AND MOISTURE.

On the mainland it is found on a crumbling, yellowish sand rock. On Santa Rosa Island the soil in which it grows is a mixture of earth and loose rock, or sometimes earth of some thickness resting upon solid rock.

TOLERANCE.

The scanty foliage of the tree and its occurrence in scattering stands indicate that it is intolerant of shade.

REPRODUCTION.

It is a prolific annual seeder, and the trees bear well at an early age—12 or 15 years. The cones open and discharge most of their seed during the third year, and in the fourth year they usually fall with the remaining seed still held in the lower scales. The seeds are heavy, with only a short wing, and wind is not a factor in their dispersal. Seedlings are numerous in the vicinity of the groves.

